into by an expert committee, and is presently under the consideration of the Government.

Railway Line between Daitari and Anyappalli

607. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a proposal to lay a railway line between Daitari and Anyappalli in Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal received by the Central Government from the State Government of Orissa;

(c) whether it is a fact that the proposal has been approved; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such proposal has been received so far.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Timings of Mahalaxmi Express from Bombay to Miraj

608. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 748 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th September, 1991 and state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the arrival and departure timings of Mahalaxmi Express from Bombay to Miraj and *vice-versa* in order to improve the situation; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to expedite the survey and laying of broad-gauge line between Miraj and Bangalore and Miraj and Latur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No review in the arrival and departure of the train has been made. Watch, however, is being kept on its punctuality.

(b) No, Sir.

Requirement of Karnataka for Rail Services

609. SHRI B. K. HARI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the need for augmenting rail services in respect of Hospet-Hubli-Ankola B.G. line Miraj-Hubli-Bangalore B.G. conversion, Miraj-Londa-Hubli B.G. conversion;

(b) whether Government propose to provide direct train from Bidar to Bangalore and faster train services in general;

(c) whether Government propose to create a South Western Railway Zone at Bangalore with a view to speeding up the conversion and development of rail system; and

(d) whether Government propose to ensure expeditions, expansion and modernisation of workshop at Hubli?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) A survey has been taken up on Hospet-Hubli-Ankola to determine what infrastructure is required. Surveys conducted on Hubli-Bangalore-Miraj-Londa-Hubli have revealed inadequate traffic prospects.

(b) The suggestions will be kept in view at the time of the next revision of Railway Time Table provided these are found justified and operationally feasible.

(c) The matter is presently under consideration of the Government.

(d) Yes, Sir. Hubli Workshop has been tentatively identified for modernisation. It will, however, be included in the Railway Works Programme at the appropriate time depending upon the availability of funds *vis-a-vis* other competing requirements.

Review of Rail Fares

610. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a high-powered panel to review rail fares; if so, what are the terms of its reference;

(b) what are the reasons for fixing two years period for submission of the report;

(c) whether the panel has been asked to submit an interim report; if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what steps Government propose to take with a view to providing relief to rail passengers who cannot afford higher rail fares; and

(e) what are the details of measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Railway Fare and Freight Committee has been set up to review the rail fare and freight structure. The Terms of Reference for the Committee are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

(b) Keeping in view the volume of work involved, a period of two years for submission of the report is considered necessary.

(c) The Terms of Reference include the provision for submission of interim recommendations, on one or more subjects, as required by the Government.

(d) and (e) The rail fares for Second Class are deliberately kept at a low level as a measure of providing relief to such passengers.

Statement

Terms of Reference

To examine the entire gamut of present fare and freight structure and other ancillary matters, keeping in view the increase in cost of operations, quantum and pattern of traffic expected to be carried by the Railways, changes in technology, national transport policy and overall economic development of the country.

1.1. To particularly study, review and examine the following:

1.1.1. *Passenger Fares*

(a) the relativity of passenger fares for different classes of travel;

(b) season ticket fares and other concessions;

(c) reservation fee, sleeper surcharge for second class, supplementary charges for super fast trains and other miscellaneous charges;

(d) Charges for special trains, reserved carriages, tourist cars and saloons, circular journey tickets, Indrail passes, platform tickets, clerkage charges and cancellation charges etc. as contained in the present Coaching Tariff.

1.1.2. *Goods Rates*

(a) Goods classification assigned to different commodities booked in smalls, wagon loads and train loads;